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Cubans Cool, Says Invader

From Post News Service

Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo, a guerrilla leader captured recently by Prime Minister Fidel Castro's security forces, says he expected a warm welcome from Cuban peasants, but instead received a hostile reception.

THE PEASANTS gave him food, Menoyo said in a taped television interview broadcast from Havana, but also informed the Army of his presence.

Menoyo and three of his companions appeared in the 25-minute show, answering questions by two Cuban security officers.

THE LEADER said he used Puerto Rico as a way station and that Ex-Gov Luis Munoz Marin helped him and his followers.

"We understand that the FBI took our radio equipment," he said. "Then Munoz Marin intervened and it was returned."

Menoyo agreed with all details previously announced by the Cuban government. He said he and his group infiltrated Cuba from a base in the Dominican Republic after obtaining a boat in Puerto Rico. Dominican authorities have denied that any such base exists.

ASKED IF he had something special to say, Menoyo pointed to Florida on a map and said:

"I only want to warn those who wish to imitate us that

they ought to think things over well before doing this . . . Against the people, one cannot fight . . .

IF THE PEOPLE are against it, it is wrong."

The captives looked calm during the interview. They smoked and sipped water between questions. They wore what looked like improvised uniforms.

Some exile circles felt that Menoyo, who was once a Castro operative, may have betrayed the anti-Castro cause, but the feeling was not widespread. Enrique Llaca of the Copy News Service reported from Miami.

CUBAN EXILES in Miami, who heard the broadcast from Havana, were depressed by the new failure to spark an uprising, he said.

The apparent composure with which Menoyo spoke indicated to Miami listeners that the captured men were not under any great fear of mistreatment, Llaca said.

One of Menoyo's aides said he had been trained in firearms and map-reading by the U. S. Central Intelligence agency.

ARMED FORCES Minister Raul Castro said earlier that Menoyo and his companions were sighted 12 hours after they landed Dec 28 and were captured several days later.

In Miami a Cuban exile newsman, Luis Manuel Martinez, said his information is that a pro-Castro spy network linking Miami, Puerto Rico and Santo Domingo led to Menoyo's capture.

FORMER Puerto Rican Gov Munoz Marin said in San Juan he had no recollection of having helped Menoyo.

Munoz said: "I would feel honored to have given any legitimate help to the cause of Cuban democracy but it is a fact that I have no recollection whatsoever of the incident Gutierrez Menoyo mentions."

The Dominican Republic, in a letter to United Nations Secretary General J. Thant in New York, categorically denied charges by Cuban Foreign Minister Raul Roa that it allowed Cuban rebels to operate from Dominican bases.

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